is for this puspose that this Rs. 123—4—0 is asked for. I request that the House will be pleased to vote the grant.

Demand put and carried.

6. 13—Anchal—Office Expenses—Rs. 70.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I rise to move for Rs. 70 under 13—Anchal-Office expenses. This is on account of the new branch anchal office opened at Ramavarmapuram. I request that the House may be pleased to vote the grant.

Demand put and carried.

7. 14—General Administration—Rs. 775.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Sir, I rise to move for Rs. 775 under 14—General Administration. This is in connection with the economic survey. The House knows that the Government have decided to have an economic survey as early as possible. This is to meet the year's expenses on account of this survey. Provision has been made only for the current year and if the work has to be extended to next year, we will come forward with a request for some more money next year. I request that the House will be pleased to vote this grant. It is the intention to start the survey as early as possible.

Motion No. 1.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—*To reduce the grant of Rs. 775 under 14—General Administration by Re. 1.*

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Sir, I am really afraid to move this motion after hearing the Leader of the House saying that the reduction in price of paddy is a small reduction. I am really afraid after hearing that. But I am emboldened by the fact that facts are otherwise and all of you know that the facts spoken by the Leader of the House do not accord with actual facts in the State I am obliged to move this motion specially seeing that a unanimous resolution carried in this House on the previous occasion with regard to the reduction of 12½ per cent of the land revenue has not been given any serious consideration even up to this moment. Facts are getting harder and harder day by day and we have had even in this House specific statements of the deplorable condition in which the landholders find themselves even for paying the land revenue. If I remember correctly, it was the Hon'ble Member for Jenmies who said that he had to borrow a thousand rupees while his store house was full of paddy. When he had so much of paddy at his disposal he could not get any price for them worth the name and he had to go borrowing. Conditions are getting harder and harder day by day and it is nothing but natural for the people to look to the Government only under these

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conditions. Of course I do remember the motion made by the Madras Legislative Council with regard to the remission of tax and the effect that it had. Though there has been no acceptance of the resolution substantial relief has been granted to some extent at least. I request without going further into the details of the matter to get some kind of hope at least from the Government side to say that there may be a serious consideration of the matter and possible relief granted.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I beg to state on behalf of the Government that the Government is very seriously considering that question. In regard to the other point I am very sorry that my learned friend has misunderstood me. I never said that the price has not gone up. When the price was 14 annas we were collecting only at the rate of 8 annas. The fall from eight annas is only small. That is what I said, I never said that there is no fall. Government is very seriously and anxiously considering the question of giving effect to the resolution.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—May I know at what stage it is?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Certain statistics are called for in that matter.

Mr. Paul Mampilly.—By that time, will the Government be pleased to stop the sale of the lands for arrears of revenue?

Mr. U Kandar Menon.—That cannot be done.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Have you any idea of granting any relief to the people? Is the question of granting relief under serious consideration?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—That is the idea. Otherwise the question need not be considered at all.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—May I know whether the word 'consider' has the same meaning as it is always used in this House?

President.—It is not quite charitable to make that observation.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I wish to support this motion. Whenever these things come we get replies such as the Government is very seriously considering or sometimes very anxiously considering. Till the next Council meets, the anxious and serious consideration goes on and nothing is done. You will kindly remember that this matter was introduced in the Council in the first budget session. The Member for Narakkal moved a motion and the House very unanimously said that something must be done to help the poor people. The matter has been under the serious and anxious consideration of the

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Government and I think if the Government is going to carry its administration in this very serious and anxious consideration the Government may break down in their anxiety to do things in the interests of the people. I may seriously warn the Government that if they go on with the indifference that they have shown so far, matters would become serious and acute. I endorse every word said by the Member who moved this motion and, as far as I know, the situation is very acute. I suggest that if the the Government cannot reduce all land tax they can give at least some remission with regard to lands under their control, Devaswam, Amma Raja's Palace, etc. They can give some reduction immediately. Unless the Government is going to do anything, this kind of anxious consideration would not do us any good at all. We are not going to stop short of it. If the Government treats it with indifference I would certainly think that the necessity for the books suggested by the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur would become acute. Pamphlets and things like that will have to be used by the people. If the Government shows such indifference these books and propaganda work would be necessary. I am sure Government would not move unless we use such a weapon. Unless the Government takes action immediately there is the acute crisis. I support the motion.

Mr. Joseph Pattah.—On a point of information, just to make matters clear, may I know whether the consideration is about the mode of concession or whether any relief is to be given or not?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—We want some statistics. We have called for information. It will take some time. It is not so easy as my learned friend thinks.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Is the information to be gathered from the State or outside the State?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—From the State. With regard to the amount due under certain heads we have to get information.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is there any truth in the statement or in the belief of the people that the Government is waiting to collect the last pie to consider this question seriously?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It is not true.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—While I entirely endorse what has been said by the previous speakers I am certainly against making any invidious distinction between lands owned by private parties, whether such lands be under the Devaswams, Amma Tampuran or Government. It is absolutely unfair and iniquitous to make any such distinction in the matter of revenue remission. If the

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Government is satisfied that relief should be given, it should be given to one and all alike. I don't think you can give much relief. But there is such a thing as psychological factor in this matter and a little concession shown will go a long way to give a feeling of relief and also a feeling of respect on the part of the people towards the Government. It is the feeling that is much more important than the material benefit that you would confer by making concession.

There is also a time for doing it. When the time has passed, even if you can give a larger concession it will not be appreciated by the people, as they would do now. There is no use saying that the price of paddy is not very low. I believe the price of paddy in the Trichur market is somewhere about 5 annas or even less and there is a lot of difference between 5 annas and 8 annas. When the Government fixed it at 8 annas, it was given as a concession, because the price of paddy was 12 annas or 14 annas per parah. The argument is very sound: 'When you get a profit Government are not asking for a higher rate. But when you incur a loss you should not say anything'. That is the argument of the Leader of the House. But what was the intention of the Government in giving this concession? Even when the price was 12 annas the Government were satisfied with 8 annas. So, the intention of the Government was to give relief and not to make as much as they possibly can. But unfortunately nobody thought that conditions were going for the worst and instead of being a blessing this 8 annas business has become a curse. That is the way the matter ought to have been viewed. We should not view it as a matter of contract. It is not a question of contract between the Government and the people.

After all what is Government? The Government is here to view it in the widest sense to give the people relief, and see to their moral and material progress. It is not half a dozen officers and another 20 or 25 people coming here and talking. There is no use of telling that this Government has not done it because other Governments have not done it. This Government is different from other Governments and these people are different from other people. When you come and boast here that we are the first in the matter of education you must also understand that we are the first to assert our rights in these days and this is the time to assert that right, when people are starving. When they find it very difficult to pay the revenue and get the cost of cultivation what is the use of saying you are considering, we are contemplating? These ought to be considered within 24 hours, if you have any regard for the people. We have been told when

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you want to play mischief that the majority of the Council is in favour of it. Now the unanimity of the Council is in favour of it. Why is it that youare not taking any action ? Eight months have passed and the Government coolly gets up and says, 'we are considering'. Are you going to consider till all the people are ruined ? . I heardfrom my friend here that lands are being sold in auction. Willany one refuse to give revenue unless it is a physical impossibility for the poor men to meet their demands? Therefore, these jokes, this sort of answers as 'we are considering', are not in proper form or are not given at the proper time. I hope that this House will record its disapprobation at the neglect, at the manifest indifference shown to the general opinion of this House by putting this motion to vote and carrying the vote against the Government.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—The acuteness of the situation and the dilatory steps taken by the Government in this matter prompt me to add a few words of my own on this subject. Under similar circumstances the Government of Madras have been pleased to give some sort of relief, although it fell far short of expectations. We here in Cochin find that not only are vigorous steps taken for the colection of normal land revenue but my constituents complained to me that vigorous coercive steps are being taken for the collection of double crop assessment upon lands assessed only as single crop. There was a motion in this House that, until the economic depression was over, this collection of double crop assessment upon lands assessed as single crop should be suspended. That motion did not find favour with Government. When we find that, in spite of this proferred sympathy, vigorous steps are being taken to collect second crop assessment, I think it is time to take matters very seriously. The assurance given by the Leader of the House that the matter is receiving the very serious consideration of the Government. is of little comfort, Government not having made up its mind to grant relief. Government is still considering if any relief at all is to be given. It cannot be that the Government is not fully alive to the situation. The situation is becoming increasingly desperate and to make it clear that we shall not allow this dilatoriness to go on any further. I believe the non-official Members of this House will unanimously vote for this token motion and see that it is carried.

മിസ്റ്റർ. ടി. എ. രാമലിങ്ഗയ്യർ.—ഈ വിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കും രണ്ടുവാക്കു പറവാനുണ്ട്. എന്നെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾ ഇപ്പോടയിൽ എന്നാട്ട് ഒരു അപേക്ഷ ചെയ്യുണ്ടായി. മെമ്പർമാർ കൌൺസിലിൽചെന്ന് ഞങ്ങൾക്കു വല്ല ഗുണ

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വും ചെയ്യുമെന്നായിരുന്നു ഞങ്ങളുടെ വിശ്വാസം; ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ അനുഭവം ദോഷമായിട്ടാണു് കാണുന്നതു്. അതെന്തെന്നാൽ രണ്ടാംവിളവുകായ്ക്കുന്നതിനുമുമ്പുതന്നെ രണ്ടുതവണ കൌൺസിലിൽ പ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയും രണ്ടുതവണയും ഭൂരിപക്ഷപ്രകാരം പാസാവുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഇപ്പോൾ നികുതി ഫസ്റ്റ് ശതമാനം വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നും പാസായി. കൌൺസിലിൽ ഇപ്രകാരം പാസാക്കിയതു നമ്മുടെ അഭിപ്രായമായിരിക്കുമോ ഇപ്പോൾ പതിവിലും വളരെ കൂടുതലായി രണ്ടാംനികുതി ഇത്തവണ പിരിക്കുന്നതു് എന്നാണു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ സംശയം. ഞാനാണു് ആദ്യം ഈ പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവന്നതു്. രണ്ടാമത്തെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങിയതും ഞാനാണു്. അതിനാലാണോ നെല്ലായി ഫക്കയിൽ ശേഷം ഭാഗങ്ങളേക്കാൾ വളരെ കൂടുതലായി നികുതി പിരിക്കുന്നതു് എന്നുകൂടി സംശയിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. പതിവിലും കൂടുതൽ പിരിവുണ്ടെന്നു ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് നിശ്ചയമായും സമ്മതിക്കും.

പതിവുനികുതി മുഴുവൻ പിരിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞു. കയ്യിലായതു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കാൻ എല്ലാവർക്കും മടിയുണ്ടാവും. എന്നാൽ പിരിക്കാത്തതു് പിരിക്കാതിരുന്നാലും കുറെ സഹായമാവും.

പുഞ്ചനെല്ലിനു പറയത്തക്ക ഉണ്ടായ വിവരവും അറിയാമല്ലൊ. ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്കു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് നിർബ്ബന്ധമായി നികുതി പിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതികണ്ടാൽ ഒരു പഴഞ്ചൊല്ലാണു് ഓർമ്മവരുന്നതു്. അതു് ഇവിടെ പറയാൻ കൊള്ളുകയില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെനയം അതുപോലെയാണു കാണുന്നതു്. കടമുള്ളവന്മാർക്ക് വല്ലതും കിട്ടിയാലും വേണ്ടതില്ല. സർവ്വവും നശിച്ചാലും വേണ്ടതില്ല. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനുള്ളതു മുഴുവനായും കിട്ടണം.

ഈ സമയത്തു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു സഹായം ചെയ്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ വലിയ നഷ്ടമായിതീരും. ഒന്നും ചെയ്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഹർജ്ജിയുമില്ലാത്ത ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടാണെന്നു വിചാരിക്കാൻ തരമുള്ളൂ.

മിസ്റ്റർ. കെ. എം. ഇബ്രാഹിം.—സർ, ഞാനും ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ വളരെ ഹാർദ്ദമായി അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള വളരെ പ്രധാനങ്ങളായ സംഗതികളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് മുഴുവൻ ആലോചിയ്ക്കാതെ കായ്ങ്ങൾ അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകളയുന്നതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു് വളരെ വ്യസനമുണ്ടു്. എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതനായ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട നെല്ലായി മെമ്പർ, ഞങ്ങളെ ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞയച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വോട്ടർമാർ പറയുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു്. ഇവിടെ അറിയിയ്ക്കുവാനുണ്ടായി. കൌൺസിലിൽ ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ പോയിട്ടു് എന്താണു പ്രയോജനമെന്നു് നിയോജകമണ്ഡലങ്ങളിലെ വോട്ടർമാർ ചോദിച്ചു തുടങ്ങീട്ടുള്ള കാലമാണിതു്. നാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങളെ പരക്കെ ബാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു കായ്ത്തൽ വെ

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ുതെ അതിനെസംബന്ധിച്ച് ആലോചിച്ചുലോചിച്ച് കാലംകഴിക്കാതെ കുറച്ചു ധൃതിയിൽ ആ വക സംഗതികൾ നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികൾ ചെയ്യണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ സവിനയം ഉണർത്തിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെ അധികം ആലോചിച്ചു തുടങ്ങിയാൽ രക്ഷതി കൊടുക്കണ്ട എന്നു പറയുവാനും ഇതിരിക്കുന്ന മെമ്പർമാരിൽതന്നെ ആളുകളുണ്ടാകുമെന്നാണു് എനിയ്ക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു്. ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടാത്ത പലവിധ അസ്വതന്ത്രതകളും കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകളും ദാരിദ്ര്യവും നാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിയ്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ വക പ്രമേയങ്ങളുടെ ഗൌരവത്തെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ദീഷ്ടിഷ്ടിയോടുകൂടി പരിശോചിച്ചു എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു പരിഹാരം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ നിങ്ങളോടു് കെഞ്ചി അപേക്ഷിയ്ക്കുവാനും, മറുവിധത്തിൽ അപേക്ഷിയ്ക്കുവാനും വിചാരിയ്ക്കുന്ന ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾപോലും നികുതി നിഷേധത്തിനു്—നികുതി കൊടുക്കുവാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നുള്ള പ്രചരണവേലയ്ക്കു്—ഇറങ്ങി പുറപ്പെടുവാനുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു് ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഞാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു. നികുതി നിഷേധം ആവശ്യമാണെന്നു് തോന്നത്തക്കവിധത്തിലാണു് ഇന്നു് ഇൻഡ്യാരാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പലഭാഗങ്ങളിലും നടക്കുന്ന പ്രവൃത്തികൾ. അപേക്ഷകൾ കൊണ്ടുനടക്കാത്തതു് അതുമൂലം നഷ്ടമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു് ഏവർക്കും ബോദ്ധ്യമായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അവസ്ഥിതിയ്ക്കു് ഈ ചെറിയ രാജ്യമായ കൊച്ചിയിലെങ്കിലും ആ ഉപദ്രവം വരാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയാണു് ഈ വിഷയകമായി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും ദയവായി എന്തെങ്കിലും പ്രവൃത്തിക്കണമെന്നുമാത്രമേ ഞാനപേക്ഷിയ്ക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—It has been given expression to in this House that when the price of paddy was 12 annas the Government fixed 8 annas per parah. Why did the Government fix it at 8 annas? Was it due to the caprice of the officer who fixed it? You, Sir, will assure me that it was not so. Why did the Government do it? Because the Government might have found that the cultivation expenses were much higher than when the pattam was fixed. It must be owing to that reason that the price has been fixedat 8 annas. Now the price has gone down to 5 annas and the Government has fixed it at 8 annas. Why the Government have become so callous about the feelings of the ryots, I cannot understand. From a perusal of the Gazette we will find that the Government has notified many bits of lands to be auctioned, for default of paying the assessment. Especially in Chittur Taluk you will agree with me when I say that there have been more than half-a-dozen cases where the necessity has arisen to sell the lands in the matter of collecting the assessment,

This year it has gone very high, because people could not find any means to pay the assessment.

The produce this year is very little and that little procures very little value. So the Government will consider that these are hard times and I don't see why they should put off giving remission. I am sure by the time Government comes to some conclusion all the money that we have to pay would have been collected and the Government will put forth the plea that all the money had already been paid and that Chittur people did not find it very difficult to pay the assessment and hence they need no remission, which is untrue. So if the Government have any idea to give any remission to the ryots, they will also consider that the action of having paid Sirkar dues is not a condition to understand that the people did not find it difficult to pay the assessment. Their case also should be favourably considered.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Sir, I wish to add a few words in support of this motion. It is a sad thing that the public have begun to lose faith in the Government's profession of sympathy and anxious consideration. In this particular case I do not find the necessity for such long and anxious consideration and for the collection of detailed statistics. One thing is certain. The Government as well as the people have realised that there is an acute misery on the part of the landholding classes, on the part of the peasantry, here in Cochin. That point cannot be controverted. What is the necessity for statistics in this case? I am at a loss to understand that. The Government might be collecting statistics by any lengthy process but so far as this question is concerned statistics are not necessary. That the price of paddy has gone abnormally low is a hard-hit fact. That the agriculturists are, therefore, suffering materially is also a hard fact. If these two facts are put together no further statistics are necessary. If the Government is actually sympathetic, if the Government is continuing in their profession of sympathy they must necessarily come to the conclusion that some relief is necessary for the agriculturists. As for the amount of relief that might be given some statistics might be necessary. But the Government have been pleased to say that even that question, whether any relief has to be given or not, is not yet decided. This consideration reminds me of the story generally prevalent in the case of hanging people. When there is a case of hanging there is a repatriation order. I think that was the old *Mamool*. The messenger taking the repatriation order is made to wait a few minutes there until the hanging is done and then out comes he with the repatriation order; but alas! too late! It is something like that. On the one side the Government is collecting

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revenue inexorably without any mitigation and the Government just now have been pleased to say that they would not stop the attachment and sale of properties on account of arrears of land revenue. On the other side, the Government is anxiously considering. The consideration goes on for a sufficiently long time, till all land revenue is collected and when another suggestion is made for relief the reply would be that all the land revenue has been paid up. 'It is an accomplished fact; and should we refund the amounts?' As the Hon'ble Member for Nellayi said it is even very cruel, it is an irony of fate, that on account of representations here the people should be made to suffer the more hard than they have been. It would seem that the ordinary collection under second crop assessment was only 5 or 6 thousand rupees in the last few years. But according to the answer given by the Government to a question in this Council, I think this year so far some 10 thousand rupees have been collected. I cannot vouch for the figure. At any rate it is true that a larger amount has been collected this year than in the previous years. So the Government is doing things with a vengeance because of the representations here, requesting for a remission of revenue.

Now, with regard to the stopping of coercive steps. There have been similar cases when we were dealing with the Jenmi-Kudian Bill. While the Bill was before this House pending consideration, representations were made for a proclamation suspending cases and such a proclamation has been issued. Similarly in this case also if the Government are genuine in their profession of sympathy and anxious consideration, they might at least suspend proceedings in the case of land revenue collection and then consider this question. If they do so there will be some meaning, there will be some genuineness, in their profession of sympathy. Otherwise, it is a very hard nut to swallow. We don't know what to conclude when the Government say that they are considering this question.

Again in the case of price of paddy it cannot be gainsaid that the policy of the Government has been to fix the Government rate at something less than the market rate. Now, if the market rate has fallen below the Government rate only for a short period or if there is any reasonable expectation that the lowering of this price of paddy would be only for a short period, it may not be necessary for the Government to take any action. But so far as we can reasonably expect this fall of price is going to be a longer one. It has been a longer one already and it is going to be longer still. There is no expectation that the price

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of paddy will go up. Therefore, once again there is the necessity that the Government should adjust their price according to the market rate and the Government rate must always go below the market rate. There is a point in saying that the present price of paddy is only 4 or 4½ annas and the Government will do well to take this fact also into consideration in collecting the land revenue. For this reason too, I have to support the motion and I request the Government to do something to mitigate the condition of the agricultural peasantry in this State of Cochin.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Are the Hon'ble Members correct in stating that there is a proportionately higher amount of collection this year?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Sir, I am not in a position to say exactly. There might be. Perhaps more lands might have been brought under cultivation.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—സർ, ഞാൻ മുമ്പ് ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഗവൺമെന്റുഭാഗം ചേർന്ന് വാദിച്ചവനാണ്. ഈ നികുതിയിൽ സാമ്പ്രം—ഫ്രാൻ %—കുറച്ചതുകൊണ്ട് ചിലർ പറയുന്നതുപോലെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടു മാറുകയില്ലെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായക്കാരനായിരുന്നു ഞാൻ. എങ്കിലും ഗവൺമെന്റ് ഈ കായ്ത്താലെടുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന നിലതിരെ ന്യായമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. മാത്രമല്ല; ഗവൺമെന്റു പറയുന്നതു വിശ്വസിക്കുവാനും നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. കാരണം നികുതി കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്ന് നിയമസഭ നിശ്ചയം പാസാക്കുന്നു. ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ ഭരണത്തിലിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു എസ്റ്റേറ്റിനു മൂന്നും നാലും ഇരട്ടിപ്പാട്ടം കൂട്ടി ഉത്തരവും പാസാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിന്റെ എല്ലാം അർത്ഥം ഗവൺമെന്റ് തീച്ചയായിട്ടും നികുതി കുറയ്ക്കുവാൻ വിചാരിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. എന്നാൽ അതു തുറന്നുപറഞ്ഞുകൂടേ? കുറയ്ക്കുവാനാണ് ഗവൺമെന്റുദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെങ്കിൽ ചിലരുടെ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ വിലക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവൺമെന്റ് ഇടവരുത്തരുതു്. അതുകൊണ്ട് എനിക്കു ഗവൺമെന്റിനോടപേക്ഷിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു് ഗവൺമെന്റു നികുതി കുറയ്ക്കുവാനുദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു് ഉടനെ ചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഇവിടെ വേറെ ഒരു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ടമെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ അത്രത്തോളം സ്റ്റാറ്റിസ്റ്റിക്സ് ഒന്നും ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ എടുക്കേണ്ടിവരികയില്ല. അതെല്ലാം എപ്പോഴും ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ കൈവിരലുകളുടെ തുമ്പിൽ ഇരിക്കേണ്ട കണക്കുകളാണ്. അതല്ലാ കുറയ്ക്കുവാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കതിനു നിവൃത്തിയില്ല എന്നു് ഗവൺമെന്റു തുറന്നുപറയുക. അതു ചെയ്യാതെ ഓരോ കാരണങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞു് ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു ഭാഗത്തിനു ദുഃഖവും ഒരു ഭാഗത്തിനു ഉപദ്രവവും വരുത്തിക്കൂട്ടുള്ള നില ഗവൺമെന്റ് എടുക്കരുതു്.

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വേറെ എന്തെങ്കിലും കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ പണമില്ല; നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടാണ് ഞങ്ങൾ നികുതി കുറച്ചതെന്നു് അപ്പോൾ ഗവൺമെൻറിൻ പറയാമല്ലൊ. ഇതു് അത്ര വലിയ ബ്രഹ്മാണ്ഡകാര്യമായിട്ടൊന്നും കരുതേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ ഞാൻ ഇതുപോലെയുള്ള ഒരു അഭിപ്രായത്തെ എതിർത്തുവെങ്കിലും ഈ തവണ ഈ നിശ്ചയത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചു സംസാരിയ്ക്കേണ്ടി വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ പോപ്പുംലാൽ ഗോവിന്ദൻ ലാലൻ.—ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ നയംതന്നെ എപ്പോഴും ജനങ്ങളുടെ രക്തം കുടിയ്ക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഈ നയം ഒരു പ്രൊഗ്രസിവു് സ്റ്റേററിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം തീരെ ആശാസ്യമില്ലാത്തതാകുന്നു. ഗവൺമെൻറിലേയ്ക്കുള്ള ആദായം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻവേണ്ടി റവന്യൂ കൂട്ടുകയും മറും ചെയ്തു് ഫാഗേഴ്സ് വലുതാക്കിയാൽ തങ്ങൾക്കു സമ്പൽക്കൂട്ടുതൽ ലഭിക്കുമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥമെമ്പറന്മാരുടെ ഉദ്ദേശം തീരെ തെറ്റാണു്. ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ഉണ്ടാകണമെന്നു കരുതാതെ തങ്ങളുടെ സുഖത്തെ മാത്രമുദ്ദേശിച്ചു് ഇങ്ങിനെ പ്രവൃത്തിയ്ക്കുന്നതു് ഒട്ടും തന്നെ ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആശീർവ്വാദവും, പ്രീതിയും തങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടായിരിയ്ക്കണമെന്നാഗ്രഹമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ സുഖത്തേയും കൂടി നോക്കണം. റവന്യൂ കുറവു ചെയ്താൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൽ അത്യാവശ്യങ്ങളായ പല കാര്യങ്ങളും ചെയ്യുന്നതിനാവശ്യമുള്ള പണമില്ലാതാകുമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല. റവന്യൂ കുറവു ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് സ്റ്റേററിലുള്ള പണം നശിച്ചുപോകുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ ബമ്മു മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ റവന്യൂ കുറവു ചെയ്യേണ്ടകാര്യത്തിൽ പലവഴക്കുകളും, കൊലപാതകം പോലും നടന്നുവരുന്നതായി നാം പത്രങ്ങൾ വഴിയായി അറിയുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ജനരക്ഷയ്ക്കാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതു് നികുതി കുറവുചെയ്യുക എന്നതാണെന്നു കാണാം. നികുതി കുറവുചെയ്യുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവൺമെൻറു് എതിരായി നില്ക്കുന്നതിൻെറ അർത്ഥം കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങളെപ്പററി അറിയുവാൻ മനസ്സില്ലാത്ത നിലയാണെന്നുള്ളതെന്നു കരുതുന്നു; ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കാലസ്ഥിതിയ്ക്കു് നികുതി കുറച്ചു കൊടുത്താൽ അവർക്കു നല്ലകാലം വരുമ്പോൾ കൂടുതൽ നികുതി ചോദിച്ചാൽ തരുവാനും അവർ വിസമ്മതം കാണിയ്ക്കുകയില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഈ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനവും, ദാരിദ്ര്യവും പട്ടിണിയും കൊണ്ടു കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന സാധുക്കളുടെ മേൽ ഈ അവസരത്തിലെങ്കിലും ദയവുകാണിക്കാത്തപക്ഷം—ഒരുകാലത്തു് അവർ നല്ലനിലയിൽ വരാതിരിയ്ക്കയില്ല അങ്ങിനെ വരുമ്പോൾ—തീച്ചയായും ഇതൊരു നികുതിയും അവരിൽ നിന്നും കിട്ടാത്ത നിലവരുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ല.

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ഈ നാട്ടിലെ ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്കു വില വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറ് തീരെ ചിന്തിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ നാട്ടിലെ വിളവിൻെറ വർദ്ധനവു നിമിത്തവും, അതു ചിലവഴിയ്ക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാഞ്ഞിട്ടുമുള്ള ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടല്ല കൃഷിക്കാർക്കുള്ളതു്, ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും അന്യരാജ്യത്തുള്ള നെല്ലും അരിയും ആദായത്തിൽ വരുത്തി ഈ നാട്ടിൽ ചിലവാക്കി വരുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു് നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലെ നെല്ലിനു വില വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു. നെല്ലിനു വിലകൂടുതൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നകാലത്തു് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് ഈ നാട്ടിലെ നെല്ലിൻെറ ചിലവുസംഗതിയിൽ വലിയ കണ്ടു്റോളൊക്കെ എടുത്തു് ജനങ്ങളെ സംരക്ഷിയ്ക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇന്നത്തെസ്ഥിതിക്കു് പുറത്തുള്ള നെല്ലും, അരിയും ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിൻെറ ഉദ്ദേശം നമ്മുടെ അഗ്രികൾച്ചർ നശിക്കട്ടെ എന്നുള്ളതാണെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് ഈവക കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ തലയിടേണ്ട ആവശ്യം തന്നെയില്ല. പുറം ദിക്കുകളിൽനിന്നും ചുരുങ്ങിയ വിലയ്ക്കു് നെല്ലും അരിയും വാങ്ങി നാട്ടിലെ നെല്ലിനു് ചിലവില്ലാതാക്കിയാൽ അതു് നാട്ടിനും കൃഷിക്കാർക്കും ഒരുപോലെ ദോഷമാണു്. ഇതുവരെ ആയിട്ടും കാര്യമായ യാതൊന്നും ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഇനിയെങ്കിലും ഈവക സംഗതികൾ കടലാസിൽമാത്രം എഴുതിവച്ചു് നോക്കിയിരിയ്ക്കാതെ ഒരുകാലത്തു് റവന്യൂകുട്ടി കിട്ടാനിടവരും എന്നുള്ള സമാധാനത്തോടുകൂടി ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ ഒരു സഹായം സാധുക്കൾക്കു് ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നേ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നുള്ളു. ജനങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിയ്ക്കുവാൻ വച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമാണു് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് എന്നുപറയുന്നതു്. റവന്യൂ പിരിയ്ക്കുന്നതും ജനക്ഷേമത്തിനാവശ്യമായ കാര്യങ്ങൾ നിർവ്വഹിയ്ക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയാണു്. അതിനാൽ ജനക്ഷേമത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു പകരം വിനാശിയ്ക്കുവാൻ തുടങ്ങിയാൽ കാലക്രമത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങളെല്ലാം നശിച്ചുപോകും. ഈ നിസ്സാരകാര്യം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ തന്നതാൻ കഴിയുകയില്ലെങ്കിൽ അടുത്തുള്ള രണ്ടുമൂന്നു സ്റ്റേറുകളുമായി ആലോചിച്ചെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യാൻ കഴിയുന്നതാണു്. അതു് മറ്റു സ്റ്റേറുകൾക്കുംകൂടി ഗുണമായിതീരുകയും ചെയ്യും. അല്ലാതെ തന്നതാൻ കടലാസിലെഴുതിവച്ചു് നോക്കിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ ഒരു ഫലവുമില്ല.

നികുതി കുറയ്ക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് വിചാരിയ്ക്കുന്നില്ല എങ്കിൽ കർഷകന്മാരുടെ പക്കൽനിന്നും നെല്ലുവാങ്ങിച്ചു് വിറ്റുകൊള്ളുക; പണത്തിനു പകരം നെല്ലുവാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുക; എന്നാണു് ഞാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതു്.

ഏതായാലും താമസിയാതെ ഇതിലേയ്ക്കു് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു് വേണ്ടതു ഉടനടി പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ ജനങ്ങളെല്ലാം വളരെ കഷ്ടസ്ഥിതിയിലാകും. അതിനാൽ ഈ പ്രമേയം

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എന്നും വോതത്തിൽനടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടതാണെന്നപേക്ഷിച്ചു കൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—Sir, when the motion for giving relief of 12½ per cent of remission of land tax was brought by the Hon'ble Member for Narakkal, I had to support it only with some restrictions and suggested that the object in view can be better attained by going back to the Jenmam rate for Pandaravaka Verumpattom and other lands. Anyhow, that resolution had the hearty acceptance of this House, and it was passed. Now about a month or more than a month has elapsed since that resolution was passed by this House and the Government has not done anything material to grant that privilege. That is the point that has been thrashed out by the Hon'ble Members here. But the cut motion has got a wider aspect in view. The cut motion reads thus—"To call attention of the Government to the urgent necessity of taking immediate steps to give relief to the land-holding classes of His Highness' subjects who are hit hard by the fall of prices of agricultural products of the State". The Hon'ble Member for Palliviruthi has been making reference to the Amma Tampuran Kovilakam lands, Devaswam lands and all such where an unconscionable rate of commutation is fixed for paddy as well as cocoanuts. He pointed out that some remission may also be granted in the matter of the revenue that press down the people who are tenants of these institutions. The Hon'ble Member for Cheruviruthi thought that in institutions like these the Government may not be justified in putting its fingers so as to give relief, when the Government has its own revenue to be charitable or generous about. The Hon'ble Member for Chittur has placed before this House the condition of the tenants of the State outside the limits of the State who are hard hit on account of the circumstance that 8 annas per parah rate is made a hard and fast rule for collecting the pattam due from the tenant. This 8 annas per parah rate was fixed at a time when 14 annas was the market rate of paddy. In reply to that the Leader of the House was mentioning that the difference between 8 annas and 5 annas is so insignificant, and that the Government does not consider it so great as to take any notice of, for the time being. But between 8 annas and 5 annas I think there is a great difference especially because that difference between 8 annas and 5 annas is more than 30 per cent of the impost. Therefore, two or three things have to be considered in giving that relief which is the subject matter of the motion before the House.

The first thing is the commutation price which was, as observed by the Hon'ble Leader last time, one *phanam* per parah. That

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commutation rate has almost been touched now when it is said that paddy is sold in Trichur and surrounding places at 5 annas or 4½ annas per parah. So in the matter of Government revenue itself it is very proper that a 12½ per cent reduction must be made, simply because of the fact that the commutation rate is rather unconscionably to be adhered to in the fall of the present ruling prices.

The other point for consideration is the circumstance that if a private landholder is leasing out his land to another private tenant there is not the vigour of the Government Regulation to aid him to collect the last pie from him without the intervention of the court. But in the matter of Thirumala Devaswam and Amma Tampuran Kovilakam and other Devaswams, the Government interferes with the crushing force of the Regulation to take coercive measures; and the tenant has no other alternative but to submit. Having regard to this circumstance, I should think the quasi-Government institutions like Amma Tampuran Kovilakam and other Devaswams, both incorporated and unincorporated, must treat their tenants with the same consideration as the Government, as they have the support of the Government to get their dues from their tenants. Therefore, they must also copy the generosity of the Government towards its subjects in realising the revenue.

Having these facts before the Government, the Government should not be invidious in giving relief to Government tax-payers alone but also to what is called the rent and rate-payers of the institutions that the Government has taken under its hold to facilitate the better management of the affairs of these institutions. When Government lends its support to the institutions the Government also must be in a position to advise and to make their advice heard by those institutions to be kind, good and generous to the tenants under them. For these reasons I support this cut motion most whole-heartedly.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. കൃഷ്ണമേനോൻ.—കുറച്ചുകാലം മുമ്പു് ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് ഒരു കോടതിയിൽ കേസു് പ്രസംഗസമയത്തു് പ്ലീസയിഡിംഗ്സ് ആഫീസർ കണ്ണടച്ചു് ഉറങ്ങിയതായും, അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആക്ഷേപിച്ചതിൽ അദ്ദേഹം കേസിനെപ്പറ്റി കണ്ണടച്ചു ദീർഘാലോചന ചെയ്കയായിരുന്നു എന്നു സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞതായും ഒരു കേൾവി ഉണ്ടു്. ആ നിലയിലുള്ള ഒരു ദീർഘാലോചനയിലാണോ മാന്യനായ നമ്മുടെ റവന്യൂമെമ്പർ പ്രവേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു് എന്നു സംശയിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. നികുതി കൊടുക്കുന്ന ആളുകൾ രണ്ടുതരക്കാരാണു്. ഒരുതരക്കാർ കൃഷിക്കുപുറമെ ഉദ്യോഗം ചെയ്യാ വേറൊരുതൊഴിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും എടുത്തോ കൂ

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ഷിക്കു പുറമെ സമ്പാദ്യമുള്ളവരായിരിക്കും. ആ തരക്കാർ ഇപ്പോൾ നികുതി കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നതു് ആവക ആദായങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നാകുന്നു. കൃഷികൊണ്ടുമാത്രം കാലക്ഷേപം കഴിക്കുന്ന വേറെ ഒരു തരക്കാർ ഉണ്ടു്. അവരുടെ സ്ഥിതിയാണു് വളരെ കഷ്ടത്തിൽ ആയിതീർന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അവക്കു കിട്ടുന്ന ആദായംകൊണ്ടു കൃഷിക്കുവേണ്ട ചിലവു്, കുടുംബച്ചിലവു്, കുട്ടികളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസച്ചിലവു്, നികുതി, മിച്ചവാരം ഇതുകൾ എല്ലാം നടത്തേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണു് ഇരിക്കുന്നതു്. നെല്ലിന്റേയും നാളികേരത്തിന്റേയും വില കുറഞ്ഞതോടുകൂടി ഈ തരക്കാരുടെ കഷ്ടസ്ഥിതി വളരെ വഷളായിരിക്കുന്നു. വല്ലകൂടികളേയും പഠിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനു് അപേക്ഷിച്ചാൽ ഒഴിവില്ലെന്നു മറുപടികിട്ടും. നികുതി കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു് Statistics collect ചെയ്യണമെന്നു് മാന്യനായ റവന്യൂമെമ്പർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. നെല്ലിന്റേയും, അരിയുടേയും, വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയുടേയും വില എല്ലാ ആഴ്ചയിലും ഗസറ്റിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്യുകാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. പിന്നെ പുതുതായി എന്താവാണു കിട്ടാനുള്ളതു് എന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. പന്ത്രണ്ടണക്കു് വിറ്റിരുന്ന നെല്ലു് അഞ്ചണ ആയ് ഇപ്പോൾ എത്തിക്കാലത്തു് എന്തെങ്കിലും സർവ്വമെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും ഒരു സഹായം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു് അവരുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളാണെന്നു പറയുന്ന ഞങ്ങൾ അഭിപ്രായവ്യത്യാസംകൂടാതെ ഇവിടെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടും അതു് ഇനിയും ദീർഘാലോചനയിൽ ഇട്ടുന്നതു് വളരെ സങ്കടമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു് അതുകൊണ്ടു് മറ്റൊരുത്തു് ഇരിക്കുന്ന മാന്യസ്നേഹിതന്മാർ ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഒന്നു കണ്ണുറന്നു ആലോചിച്ചാൽ തരക്കേടില്ലെന്നു് ഞാൻ ഓർമ്മിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. Paul Manpilli.—Sir, various grounds have been put forth by the Hon'ble Members in this House in support of the necessity for giving a remission of land tax. And I think these grounds will convince any person with regard to the necessity for giving this relief to the poor tax-payers. My object in speaking is not to convince the Government at this time with all these facts and arguments regarding the necessity for giving a remission. If the Government want time to think and be convinced let them take as much time as they want. What I want them just now to do is to stop the coercive measures which they are taking to realise the revenue. You may take one or two years for enquiry and consultation. We do not care. Our position is that for the default of payment of tax the lands should not be sold away. If the tax-payers can afford to pay, and I am sure those that can afford do pay, you may collect from them. If a person is absolutely unable to pay the tax you should not sell his lands. Supposing after some time you decide to give some

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remission, say 12½ per cent, and supposing by the time you have come to that decision, you have sold away the land for that tax for which you subsequently give remission, how are you going to compensate that Pattadar who has lost his property by the sale? You may take one or two years for coming to a decision. We do not care. That will depend upon the capacity of persons. My point is only this. By the time you take to decide this question, you should not injure the Pattadars who are unable to pay. The Government must for the present stop coercive measures.

Yesterday, I happened to go to my constituency and then I was told by some persons that the Tahsildar went there and sold away half of Narakkal. Of course, that may be an exaggeration. Anyhow, that was the representation made to me by some of the persons there and I saw the Tahsildar returning from Narakkal after the sale. Anyhow, the Tahsildar sold away certain lands. The Government will kindly understand that it is not the unwillingness of tax-payers to pay, but it is their sheer inability to pay. So I press upon the attention of the Government that by the time that they take to decide the question of giving relief to the agriculturists they may kindly stop the coercive measures that they are adopting now and relieve the tax payers to that extent.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I have nothing more to add.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon,—I do not think it necessary to give any more reasons because facts have been abundantly supplied. But one omission I would like to add, because the Members who spoke reiterated upon the fall of price in paddy only. What about the cocoanut? Is it not one of the main industries of the State and does it not reveal a most deplorable condition in the State of that industry?

Mr. K. Ayyappan —What about pepper?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—So far as I am concerned I do not think there is such a large quantity of pepper produced in the State and I would therefore confine my attention to cocoanuts and paddy only and perhaps to some extent arecanuts also. But apart from that it is no exaggeration to say that in the case of cocoanut the prices have fallen below 50 per cent. What used to be sold for 50 and 60 rupees is now sold for 25 and 30 rupees. Therefore this is one more matter which ought to engage the attention of the House.

I was prepared to concede that the Government was sincere in its profession of earnestness in saying that they were intent upon doing anything that is possible to be done. But there was a little shock when I heard that the Hon'ble the Leader of

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the House was waiting for statistics. What are the statistics that are necessary to decide whether anything should be done or not? As to what is to be done or what rate of relief is to be given, perhaps some statistics may be necessary. With regard to the decision of the general question, whether the Government is prepared to do something or other, I do not think any statistics are necessary and even if statistics are necessary, as observed by my Hon'ble friend for Irinjalakkuda, weekly publications will show the selling prices of the commodities that are mostly in demand. Of course, speaking for myself, I do not pretend to solve the problem once for all, as it is a very difficult one. But for the benefit of those who are absent from the Council, whether official or non-official, I think it necessary to show the urgency of the situation as well as the seriousness of it to press this motion for a division. With these remarks I press the motion to a division.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—A poll, Sir.

The House divided—Ayes 24 and Noes. 11

Ayes.

1	Mr. K. Ayyappan.	13	Mr. S. S. Koder.
2	,, M. A. Chatko.	14	,, K. T. Mathew.
3	,, A. Eachara Menon.	15	,, Paul Mampilli.
4	,, George Chakyamuri.	16	,, Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.
5	Dr. A. G. Menon.	17	Dr. A. R. Menon.
6	Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.	18	Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.
7	Mr. E. Ikkanda Warrier.	19	,, M. K. Raman.
8	,, Joseph Petta.	20	,, P. Raman Menon.
9	,, P. Krishna Menon.	21	,, A. Sankara Poduval.
10	,, M. Krishna Menon.	22	Dr. K. Sankara Menon.
11	,, P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.	23	Mrs. Swaris.
12	,, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.	24	Mr. K. P. Vallon.

Noes.

1	Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.	7	Mr. T. Narayana Menon.
2	,, V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.	8	Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.
3	,, M. P. Cheriyan.	9	Rama Varmha Tampuran.
4	,, U. Kandar Menon	10	Mr. P. V. Raphael.
5	,, C. J. Mathew.	11	,, P. S. Subramania Ayyar.
6	,, I. N. Menon.		

Motion No. 2.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To reduce the grant by Re. 1.*

This is to ascertain from Government details regarding the proposed economic survey.

The notes explaining the grant that an economic survey is proposed to be undertaken is circulatad among the Members

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and the grant is asked for now. Some additional information as to what exactly they are going to do and as suggested in the next cut motion regarding the arrangement made or to be made for an economic survey of the State, we like to get detailed information. If the same can be supplied I shall be satisfied.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The terms of reference have not been fixed yet. It is under preparation and nothing definite has been decided.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Has any candidate been selected?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No.

It is under preparation and I think it would be ready soon. The idea is to visit some of the typical villages in each of the Taluks and study there intensively all the connected problems such as the indebtedness of the peasant, how much area is under cultivation, what possible industries can be developed, etc., etc. Then after surveying these villages intensively a more elaborate plan may have to be drawn up on the basis of the experience gained by this preliminary work and that work will have to be pushed through. I think it will take some time before the whole survey is over.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Just for information. I had put a question whether the Government have selected any officer for conducting the survey. Am I to understand that they have not yet selected any officer for the survey?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Member is correct.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Do they intend to appoint an officer who has taken an economic degree or a training in that line?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They have not decided upon the officer.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—When they come to a decision will they have this in view?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—A knowledge of economics will certainly be useful.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Will that be the chief factor in an officer conducting the survey?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That is doubtful. The work on which the officer will have to proceed will be drawn up by the Government themselves. The officer will simply have to collect the information on the lines chalked out by Government. I think the more requisite qualification will be ability to work quickly with great despatch and finish the works promptly and without delay.

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Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Are they going to conduct the survey without an officer?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They are certainly going to have an officer.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—From which date the survey will be begun?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—In a fortnight or a month at the latest.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Whether a University degree in literature will be of any great help for conducting the economic survey?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It does not stand in the way. But I think it will be a qualification.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Will not legal qualification be conducive to the survey?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Might be.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—From what the Secretary to the Diwan said, I gathered that they intend to have the survey of certain particular villages as a preliminary step and then later on to widen the scope of the survey. May I know, Sir, to which particular villages the Government intend to conduct the survey at first?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It will be representative villages from every taluk. For example, in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk the area to be surveyed will be somewhere in the coastal regions. That would be quite representative. Similarly with each taluk.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Do the Government intend to take villages from each and every taluk or neglect Chittur and Talappalli as is usual with them? (*Hear, hear.*)

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government intend to take the survey with regard to each representative area of the State.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Are we to understand that the lines on which the survey is to be conducted will be given to the officer by Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That is right.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—May I know who will be responsible for giving the instructions to the officer?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Government will give the necessary instructions.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Is there anybody in service who is competent to give directions with regard to the economic survey? I think there is no one. It is a technical subject.

President.—It is a reflection.

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Mr. George Chakyamuri.—No, Sir, it is not a reflection. It is an honest statement of fact.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Have the Government before them any data or information for giving directions to the officer concerned?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—My information is that the permanent Diwan is busily engaged in drafting the terms of reference. Unfortunately I have not seen them. It is under preparation, but I don't know what the terms will be.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Considering that the economic survey is a mechanical collection of statistics and information and also a correct and sympathetic interpretation of these facts, is it not correct to say that an economic degree or qualification is the chief qualification that is necessary for an officer who is to be appointed as the survey officer?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Economic degree is not the only degree that is required.

The motion was considered withdrawn.

Motion No. 3.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*To reduce the grant by Re. 1.*

This is to ascertain full information regarding the arrangement made or to be made for an economic survey of the State. The Secretary to the Diwan just now said that he had not seen the papers connected with the survey. The Hon'ble Member has come to this House to move for a demand, to get sanction from this House to make a certain expenditure and he says that he has not seen the papers.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I have not seen the terms of reference. That is what I said.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—When a proposal is placed before this House, it is the duty of the Government to give to this House full particulars regarding it. Instead of doing so, to say that they have not got all the papers connected with the proposal is certainly a serious reflection upon the Government. It would mean that the Government are unwilling to give definite information to this House or they do not want to throw light upon certain of their defective plans. It is for the Government to take into their confidence this House, and say that such and such a thing they are going to do. And the Hon'ble Members on this side, though they are not so proficient as the Government Members are, may be able to throw more light upon the Government scheme. We want further information from the Government because we want that the Government should conduct the survey in such a manner as to get full information. What you

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are now doing in this matter is—you are refusing our co-operation when we are willing to offer co-operation. Sir, some papers are with the permanent Diwan, so said the Diwan Secretary. I want to know from the Government whether the Diwan has locked all the papers in his private bureau. Has he left the State without leaving the papers necessary for the purpose now on hand with the official concerned? Is he not aware that there is a Legislative Council? I cannot accept the explanation given by the Government, that all the papers are with the permanent Diwan. Even if it were the case, it was open to them to wire to him and get the necessary information from him. Since we had given sufficient notice of the motion they should have gathered all the necessary information before coming to this House. I would request the Government at least to postpone this motion for the present and come to this House prepared with all the information necessary for the purpose, so that each and every one of us may be satisfied that the grant asked for should be sanctioned. Once if the Government conduct the survey and if afterwards we find that economic survey was defective, the Government could not do anything further in the matter. Though we are not students of or Graduates in Economics, yet from our practical experience, we may be able to contribute a little at least to make the economic survey a success. After reading the report on the Educational Survey I felt that, had the Government only consulted this House under what heads they were going to collect the information, we could have made some useful suggestions and this educational survey would have been better appreciated. It is a pity that even in such matters the Government are notwilling to take this House into their confidence.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Sir, I dealt with the broad lines on which the survey is going to be conducted. Never did it strike the Government that there will be any controversy about the terms of reference regarding this survey. This is only to collect information on desirable lines. There is not the least likelihood of any controversy at all about the terms of reference to that officer. There is no controversial question before the State. It is just a matter of collecting some information upon the possible industrial developments of the State. The permanent Diwan is just now busily engaged in collecting all the information about the terms of reference. There are no recorded minutes available with us. He is thinking about them seriously. He is collecting some information personally and he will be drafting the terms of reference as exhaustively as possi-

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ble. He is taking all this trouble so that the survey may be quite complete.

There will be no controversy about terms of reference at all. If it had been a point on which a controversy is likely to arise or is possible, certainly the Government would have got all the information ready to hand. Never did we think that there will be the slightest possibility of any doubt or fear about the possible terms of reference. It is a mere academic problem.

The Diwan has not himself finally prepared the draft and there is no use of asking me now to produce a copy of it. It will be done very soon and he is personally looking after that work. There need not be any misapprehension at all about the Government not taking into their confidence the non-official side of the House. For, such a question would not arise at all in this particular question.

Then as soon as the draft is necessary it will be placed before the House. There is not the slightest objection to it. It is not a confidential document. I may say that boldly.

Then regarding the idea of postponing it to the next session, that is about four months after, the Government do not think it will be wise to agree to it. The survey will be a laborious process and something has to be done on the basis of that report. If it is postponed we lose definitely 6 months. I do not think it will be wise on the part of the Government to move for an adjournment of this business to the next meeting. After all there is also no necessity for it. It is purely an academic question.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will there be any difficulty in adding anything to the terms of reference?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There will be no difficulty at all.

President.—Do you undertake to supply the copies to all the Hon'ble Members?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The whole proceedings will be published in the Gazette.

മിസ്റ്റർ. കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—സർ, ഈ കാര്യം ഇത്ര ധൃതിപ്പെട്ടു ചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമെന്തു? സർവ്വീസുകമ്മിഷൻ നിയമിക്കാനുള്ള ആലോചന തുടങ്ങീയിട്ടു പലമാസങ്ങളായി. ഇതേവരെ അതിന്റെ നിയമനം കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. സാമ്പത്തിക സർവ്വേ നടത്താനുള്ള ആലോചന ഇതിനുമുമ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. ഇതാ അതു രണ്ടാഴ്ചയ്ക്കുള്ളിൽ തുടങ്ങണമെന്നുപറയുന്നു. എന്താണിത്ര ധൃതിക്കു കാരണം? രണ്ടാഴ്ചയ്ക്കുള്ളിൽ ജോലിയില്ലാതാകുന്ന ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനു ജോലികൊടുക്കുവാൻവേണ്ടി മാത്രമായിരിക്കണം ഈ ധൃതിയെല്ലാം.

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സാമ്പത്തിക സർവ്വേ നടത്തുന്നതു നല്ലതാണു്. പക്ഷേ അതിനു പുറമെ വിദഗ്ധന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു നടത്തിക്കണം. സാമ്പത്തിക സർവ്വേ നടത്താൻ നല്ല വിദഗ്ധന്മാർ ഇപ്പോൾ കൊച്ചിയിൽ ഇല്ല. എക്കണോമിക്സു് പഠിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവരുണ്ടെന്നു് ചിലർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എക്കണോമിക്സു് പഠിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം ഈ കാര്യത്തിനുവേണ്ട യോഗ്യത സിദ്ധിക്കയില്ല. 'സാമ്പത്തിക സർവ്വേകൊണ്ടു് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വല്ല ഗുണവും സിദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു വിചാരമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ സാമ്പത്തിക സർവ്വേക്കായി ഒരു വിദഗ്ധനെ വലിയ രമ്പളം കൊടുത്തു പുറത്തുനിന്നുവരുത്തണം. അതല്ല ഒരാൾക്കു് ഉദ്യോഗമുണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നു മാത്രമേ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനുദ്ദേശമുള്ളുവെങ്കിൽ ആരെയെങ്കിലും നിയമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുക.

Mr.K.T.Mathew.—It was with much interest that I attended to the speech of the Secretary to the Diwan. I never thought that such a serious matter would be brushed aside so lightly and so unconvincing a manner. The conducting an economic survey is rather a difficult task. It was pointed out by the non-official Members of this House that there was not a single man in our State well equipped to take up this responsible work. In saying so I am not casting any reflection on any man. I can boldly say, although Cochin stands first in India in education to conduct an economic survey successfully and get all the information required is not so easy a matter as the Diwan Secretary conceives. The Report should be a monumental document. It should be so very thorough and elaborate. To get such a report is rather very difficult. Since it is echoed from different parts of this House that there is no capable man in our State to undertake such a task, I would earnestly ask the Government to consider whether they are justified in employing anyone from this State itself. If they find anyone competent in the State to do the work, why not give out his name?

I remember to have read a report published by Dr. Slater. Even about it there was much criticism. To conduct an economic survey of a State is a very difficult matter. It is not a joke, as the Secretary to the Diwan feels. If we want a very useful survey report, I would ask the Government, without minding the money they spent on it, to get an expert from outside the State. I would urge the Government, I would earnestly request the House to vote whatever money that is required for preparing a good report of economic survey.

I am not very particular in pressing this motion. I only ask the Government to bear in mind the suggestions we have made to-day.

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—We have not brushed them aside. Government will consider all these suggestions as well.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I request the leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Motion was, with leave, withdrawn.

The House rose for lunch at 2 p. m. and met again at 3 p. m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

Motion No. 4.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment by Re. 1.*

Sir, at the outset let me make it plain that in selecting candidates for this department, although it is a temporary department, Government must not overlook the claims of communities which are not adequately represented in the service. However communal the Head of the Department is, apart from communal consideration, it is the duty of the Government to select the best person available. But with regard to the other appointments which are going to be made in this Department it is the duty of the Government to follow the principle which they have many a time said in this Council they would follow. It is the principle of giving representation in the Government service to all communities. I am not here for pleading for any particular community. It has been admitted by the Government that there are certain communities which are not adequately represented in the Government service. It is the duty of the Government to encourage such communities. It is not very difficult to get for such small posts, drawing Rs. 30, Rs. 40, or Rs. 50, competent men from any of the communities in the State. Even from the depressed classes, I think, it will be possible to get candidates with the minimum qualification required. There are graduates seeking employment in all communities. Under such circumstances the Government cannot reasonably say that competency is the criterion for selection. All are marked graduates by the University, who have been able to get through the B. A. Examination. If the Government want graduates they have only to announce it and soon they will get a number of applications from graduates belonging to all communities and if they think that certain communities have not got sufficient representation in the Government service, it is the duty of the Government to follow the principle which they have laid down to select candidates from those communities which are not fully represented. As this is a new department the acting period of a few days in another department should not weigh with the Government. If the Government are going to consider the claims based on acting in other departments even in making appointments in

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temporary and new departments, I don't think for the next 10 or 12 years these unrepresented communities would get a good chance of getting into the Government service. So whenever new departments are created by the Government, the Government should select candidates from those communities which are not well-represented inthe service, apart from the consideration of acting in other departments.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—As the Hon'ble Member himself explained this is a new department according to the rules. But Government will consider the suggestion.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—On this assurance, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.

Demand minus Re. 1 was then put and carried.

8. 14—General Administration—Rs. 300.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 300 under 14—General Administration—Huzur Secretariat—Office expenses. The provision in the budget was for Rs. 700 and the balance now available under it is only Rs. 164—5—7. About 5 months more have to run and it will be necessary to have some more money under that head. I request that the House will be pleased to pass Rs. 300 under Office Expense.

Demand put and carried.

9. 14—General Administration—Rs. 400.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I rise to move for Rs. 400 under 14—General Administration—Huzur Secretariat—Miscellaneous. Here again the budget provision was Rs. 1,700 and the balance now is only Rs. 415—5—4. I request that the House will be pleased to pass this grant.

Demand put and carried.

10. 15—Accounts and Finance—Rs. 1,876.

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 212 under Establishment, Rs. 600 under T. A., Rs. 35 under Tour Charges, Rs. 15 under Postage, Rs. 14 under Telegraph and Rs. 1,000 under Service Lables. These have been necessitated exclusively by the transfer of my office to Ramavarmapuram, except under establishment. Under establishment we have budgetted on a very correct basis, viz., for Rs. 32,356. It included 5 per cent for leave allowance also. In a big establishment like that of mine 5 per cent leave allowance will be quite inadequate. So that, the whole amount has been spent up in the course of 5 months—I mean that under leave

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